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REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendments, claims 1-62 will be pending. Claims 29, 38, and 48 have been amended to clarify their distinction over the prior art. Claims 29 and 48 have also been amended for clarity. Claim 39 has been amended without change in scope to substitute "the aperture" for "an aperture." Claim 62 has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowance of claims 56-61 is noted with appreciation, as is the indication that claims 5, 16, and 41 constitute allowable subject matter.

Prior Art Rejections

The prior art rejections are addressed in the order made in the Action.

Pennaz

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, 21-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 38-40, 42, 44, 45, and 47-54 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Pennaz et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,891,110 ("Pennaz"). Claims 8, 12, 19, 28, 34, 37, 46, and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Pennaz. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Pennaz discloses an RFID device that includes an interposer 30 coupled to an antenna 20. The interposer 30 includes a chip 10 coupled to a pair of contact pads 34 and 36. A conductive adhesive 38 is used to adhere the contact pads 34 and 36 to antenna portions 60 and 62 on opposite sides of a gap 66. Pennaz does not disclose forming an aperture in a continuous conductive layer that is part of a web material that also includes a continuous dielectric layer. Pennaz also does not disclose attaching plural interposers across an aperture.

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Claim 1 recites a method of making an RFID device that includes, *inter alia*, providing a web material, the web material including a continuous conductive layer and a continuous dielectric layer, and forming at least one aperture in the conductive layer. Pennaz does not disclose forming an aperture in a continuous conductive layer on a continuous dielectric layer. Although Pennaz does disclose an antenna 20 having a gap 66, Fig. 2, Pennaz does not teach or suggest forming an aperture in a continuous conductive layer of a web material that also includes a continuous dielectric layer. Pennaz discusses forming the antenna 20 in a thin metal foil or a metallized film by stamping or etching, col. 6, lines 45-51, but this does not teach or suggest the recited forming of an aperture in the recited web. Since Pennaz does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-15, 17-19, and 21-28 are patentable over Pennaz.

Many of the dependent claims depending upon claim 1 are patentable over Pennaz because Pennaz does not teach or suggest their additional features. Claims 4 and 15 each recite that the forming of the at least one aperture includes forming at least one crease portion including a central portion of overlapped web material between adjacent portions of single ply web material, and removing part of the central portion. Pennaz does not disclose any sort of creasing or overlapping of web material. Thus Pennaz does not teach or suggest the additional recited features of claims 4 and 15, and claims 4, 6-8, 10, 15, 17-19, and 21, are patentable over Pennaz for an additional reason.

Additional features in claims dependent upon claims 4 and 15, such as crimping at least one crease portion (claims 8 and 19) and cutting overlapped material of a crease portion (claims 9 and 20), are also not taught or suggested by Pennaz.

Dependent claim 26 recites that the forming of the at least one aperture includes leaving conductive bridges on sides of the at least one aperture, claim 27 further recites that conductive portions connected to the strap are themselves electrically coupled by at

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least one of the conductive bridges, and claim 28 recites that forming the apertures includes making elliptical holes in the conductive layer. Pennaz does not teach or suggest any of these additional features. In Fig. 2 Pennaz shows the gap 66 as a narrow gap with parallel sides, fully separating the antenna portions 60 and 62 from each other, without any conductive connection between the portions 60 and 62. The text of Pennaz describes the gap 66 as "more critical" than a gap 46 that electrically isolates the conductive pads 34 and 36 of the interposer 30. Col. 7, lines 38-42. Making conductive bridges between Pennaz's antenna portions 60 and 62 would undercut Pennaz's reason for the gap 66, and making the gap 66 elliptical would interfere with the connection between the conductive pads 34 and 36, and the antenna portions 60 and 62. Pennaz does not teach or suggest use of conductive bridges or any other connections across an aperture, and does not teach or suggest elliptical apertures. Therefore claims 26-28 are patentable over Pennaz for additional reasons.

Claim 29 as amended recites a web of RFID devices that includes plural straps attached across an aperture in a conductive layer, and coupled to conductor portions on opposite sides of the aperture. Pennaz shows only a single interposer 30 coupled to the antenna portions 60 and 62, across the gap 66. Pennaz does not teach or suggest coupling plural straps or interposers across an aperture. Therefore Pennaz does not teach or suggest all of the recited features of claim 29 as amended, and claims 29-37 are patentable over Pennaz.

Claim 38 as amended recites a method of making RFID devices that includes forming an aperture in a web of conductive material, and applying plural straps across the aperture. As discussed above with regard to claim 29, Pennaz does not teach or suggest applying plural straps across an aperture. Therefore claims 38-40, 42, and 44-46 are patentable over Pennaz.

Pennaz also does not teach or suggest the additional feature recited in claim 29, that of providing two webs of conductive material aligned in parallel with an aperture

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therebetween. Pennaz does not teach or suggest aligning multiple webs of conductive material. Pennaz also does not teach or suggest claim 40's recited feature of forming a crease portion of web material. Thus claims 39, 40, and 42-44 are patentable over Pennaz for additional reasons.

Claim 48 as amended recites a web of RFID devices wherein the RFID devices include plural straps attached to conductor portions across an aperture. As discussed above, Pennaz does not teach or suggest attaching plural straps across an aperture. Thus Pennaz does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 48 as amended, and therefore claims 48-55 are patentable over Pennaz.

Combination of Pennaz and Beigel

Claims 9, 20, and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Pennaz in view of Beigel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6, 888,502 ("Beigel"). Beigel does not make up for the failure of Pennaz to teach or suggest claims 1, 4, 15, 38, and 40, as discussed above. Thus claims 9, 20, and 43 are patentable over Pennaz and Beigel, either alone or in combination.

Newly-added claim

Newly-added claim 62 depends upon claim 1, and is patentable over Pennaz for the reasons given above for the patentability of claim 1. In addition, Pennaz does not teach or suggest claim 62's additional recited feature of applying plural straps across an aperture.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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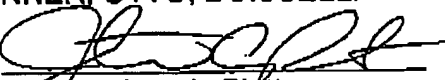
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Authorization is given to charge \$50.00 to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. AVERP3654US), for the presentation of a new claim. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. AVERP3654US).

Respectfully submitted,
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